



Trails Committee

Town of Hinesburg
10632 Route 116 Hinesburg VT 05461
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Meeting Minutes – February 16, 2017

(Postponed one day due to weather)

- Approved 3/22/17 -

Present: Ray Mainer, Jane Sheldon, Peter Modley, Sue Rusten, Chic McArthur, Stewart Pierson, Lenore Budd, and George Dameron

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

- 1. Minutes** – Ray made a motion to accept the draft minutes from the January meeting, Stewart seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.
- 2. Budget** – Since the last meeting Stewart purchased more rope for the Ravine Trail so our available funds are now \$940.64.
- 3. Mill Site Access** – Peter showed a diagram he had worked up of the historical mill site showing the access we have been using via Mill Street. He explained that of the four property deeds adjacent to Mill Street all but one documented boundaries on the “highway.” However the fourth did not have any specific highway boundary referenced in the deeds he found. Therefore we cannot be sure on his research so far that Mill Road is a town road, and thus legal public access to the mill site. He then showed how the town cemetery to the south abutted the historic area of interest and suggested we consider trying to gain access from that area. We would need to discuss this possibility with the town Cemetery Commission, but decided to wait until spring when we had a chance to walk the area and see if this idea was feasible. Peter also pointed out that most of the sites of interest are on the other side of the brook that flows from a pond so we’d have to build a bridge across it.
- 4. Mill Site Car Removal** – George reminded us that there is still an abandoned car on the mill site that needs to be removed. He will speak to Trevor to see if the town can arrange for Burnett Towing to pull it out in the spring, perhaps for the scrap value of the metal. He also will contact the property owners on Mill Street to alert them to this removal.
- 5. Town Meeting Table** – We discussed the possibility of setting up an information table at town meeting again, but decided to skip this year. We may consider doing it again in 2018.

6. **Projects for 2017** – We reviewed some of the projects other than normal maintenance that we should attempt to complete this year.
- a. **LaPlatte Headwater Town Forest** – 1) Susan mentioned Peter VanVranken had offered to install puncheons on the Bissonette loop, where we had previously discussed rerouting around muddy areas. We may need to purchase planks if Peter V doesn't have them. 2) Lenore will talk to Joe Fallon about getting an easement on his property and will re-contact the other property owners to discuss an easement for the north/south connection. 3) Lenore also suggested we try to find a better access to Gilman Rd to avoid coming so close to the Hemingway house.
 - b. **Russell Trail** – 1) We will need to deal with the muddy stretch on the east side of the perimeter loop. 2) Ann Donegan had asked Lenore if we could bench the trail just past the bridge behind the kiosk. We would need to purchase some additional tools to accomplish this. 3) The Overlook Trail needs to have an overhanging branch removed.
 - c. **Geprags** – 1) Chic suggested that the log on the perimeter trail be removed. 2) Lenore will liaise with the Conservation Commission regarding their management plan. 3) The neighbor on the north side of the perimeter trail has had issues with dogs from the park, so Lenore offered to scout the area in the spring to see if the trail can be rerouted away from the boundary. 4) Chic offered to contact the owner of Travia's to discuss gaining access on that property to Geprags from Ballards Corner. 5) Jane suggested trying to fill the empty space on the kiosk with a larger map or more notices. Since the kiosk map has already been printed Jane will check with the Conservation Commission to see if they have any notices they'd like to add.
 - d. **Town Forest** – 1) Lenore reported that the Fellowship of the Wheel is now maintaining any trails used by their members. She will check with them to see if they are also maintaining certain sections of the Eagles Trail where we have seen overgrowth or wet areas in the past. We will do a spring scouting hike to identify areas of the Eagle's Trail needing maintenance. 2) Chic suggested that the class 4 road between the two Hayden Hill entrances be blazed as there are places it is hard to tell where the trail is.
 - e. **Passing the Buck** – Mike Anthony had agreed to build the parking area on Buck Hill Road for this trail but it has not been done yet. Lenore will check with Trevor to see if this can be made a priority for the road crew.
 - f. **Northeast Quadrant** – We will need to put up markers and possibly signs in the spring, although Eli Enman had put up his own at the Magee Hill entrance already. Those may be sufficient but we will need Alex to design and produce a trail map this spring as well.
 - g. **Website** – Sue has started to work on updating the text and will bring the suggested changes to next month's meeting.
 - h. **Path to the Rec Field from Route 116** – A path needs to be mowed before the rec field starts being used. Chic suggested finding out who will be mowing the rec field itself and see if the path can be done by that person.

7. **Tools** – After reviewing this list of upcoming projects we will evaluate the need for new tools to be purchased. George also suggested buying easels for our larger maps, to be used when we set up informational tables.
8. **Record Articles** – Stewart is writing the one for the March issue (due 3/9), Jane will write the one for April (due 4/13), Lenore offered to do May's (due 5/11) and George will do June's (due 6/15).
9. **Map for the Town Plan** – Lenore passed out copies of the updated Map 13, "Trail Network Vision: Existing Routes and Proposed Improvements," that is part of the revised Town Plan. The Select Board will be holding hearings on adopting the Plan this spring."
10. The meeting was adjourned 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jane Sheldon, Secretary